

Letter to the Editor

Maybe everyone on campus should take a little time to reflect on how many opportunities they have been given and how many they have passed up.

As I wind up the first year of my schooling here, I can't help but to think of all the opportunities I have passed up. I don't know if I am alone or not, but when I decided to attend NCSSM it was because of all the opportunities available to me that I wouldn't have had at home. The most valuable asset this school has that I haven't used is its diverse views.

I have been given many opportunities this school year to try things I never have before or to learn about things that many people neglect. Just today I was asked to attend a discussion on vegetarianism and I decided not to attend.

After walking away from the table, I started thinking about it and I wasn't fair to the idea. I decided against attending the discussion because I didn't ever plan on becoming vegetarian. Once I really got to thinking about it, I realized this was the best reason that I should attend. Now I realize that I lost out on another learning opportunity just because I wasn't quite open minded enough.

Maybe everyone on campus should take a little time to reflect on how many opportunities they have been given and how many they have passed up. I don't think everyone would be happy with his or her ratios. I can't say I am a changed soul, but perhaps next time I am presented with an opportunity to learn more I will give it a more serious consideration.

QUINTON BUESCHING
Class of 2003

Letter Policy

The Stentorian reserves the right to edit for mechanics, content, and/or appropriateness. The Stentorian may choose not to print any letter based on quality, content, or space. We do not print anonymous letters. We ask authors to remain respectful of all persons and institutions when voicing their opinions.

What was your most memorable NCSSM experience?

COMPILED BY ELYSA WAN

"God, that could be incriminating." - Andrew Hardin

"Light-sabers in the fog." - Jadrian Miles

"Dropping Jim Carey on Mike Newbauer." - Patrick Guley

"Playin' b-ball in the gym everyday." - Caroline Wong

Congratulations
Class of
2002

So Like, Umm, You Know...

CANDIS WATTS

We all do it. Some of us do it more than others. It is contagious and often goes by unnoticed, but unfortunately it shows the ignorance that each of us attempts to conceal. I am referring to the fillers and expletives that some use in between the words that actually have meaning. For example, "I umm went to the umm, you know, and bought some umm like blue jeans and a uh like this yellow tank." Now, what was I trying to say? Who knows? Who cares?

It must stop, for "it is better to be silent and be thought of as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." Nearly half of the student population will be embarking on a new adventure next year: college. When we were at "our old schools" we had sweet teachers who would point out when we used one of those infamous sounds, but now many of our teachers just sneer at us and take off points from our grade. Next year, it will be worse: your professor

may sneer at you, publicly disgrace you, and then take off points from your grade. Think about it. Try to remember the time(s) you have watched the evening news, and the person being interviewed employed horrific grammar. Mind you, the interviewee is a representation of you.

Yes, bad habits are hard to break, but we shall overcome. Pointing out our problems is the first step to solving them. The first problem: kids today have a vocabulary that is about 10,000 words less than that of people the same age 20 years ago. Secondly, you cannot express something for which you do not have the words. Finally, we all work and live with people who talk aimlessly or, more tragically, without thinking. It's a shame.

These are my suggestions to eradicate this calamity:

1. Build your vocabulary. Buy a word-a-day calendar or make your own. Your vocabulary should not stop growing just because you have taken the SAT and do not plan to take it ever again. The average

person has acquired more than 70% of his or her vocabulary by the time s/he is four years old. Let's not be average.

2. Think about what you are going to say. This suggestion only works when you do it BEFORE you begin to speak; otherwise, this is good advice gone down the drain.

3. Find words that you can substitute for those nasty expletives.

4. Do not use the word 'like' unless you mean "similar to," "resembling," "to be fond of," or "approximating."

5. Someone once said "All men's miseries derive from man not being able to sit in a quiet room alone." MISERY ALERT! It is absolutely, by all means, unnecessary to express your entire train of thought, especially when every other word or phrase is "umm," "you know," "like," or "err." Those words make your train of thought sound like a sixteen car pile up.

In essence, become aware of your conversational errors by listening to yourself when you speak, and I promise this: when you hear yourself use those villainous expletives, you will feel that you sound similar to that infamous interviewee on the six o'clock news.

The Stentorian's Guide to End-of-Year Activities

Over the years, the people who run NCSSM have picked up on the fact that saying goodbye to the people we've hung out with for a year or two isn't exactly easy, so they've come up with all kinds of fun activities so we can enjoy the last few days of school. Here's a sampling, in chronological order, for the seniors who have forgotten and potentially confused juniors.

Spruntstock

The festivities begin with your last chance to play in a rockin' NCSSM band or just listen to your talented friends. After the last exam of the year at 4:00 pm, May 30.

SGA End-of-Year Lock-in

See what the new SGA officers can do! Here's a poem:

Lots of fun
Activities for everyone
All the studying is done
No reason not to come!
11:00 pm, May 30-May 31 in the PEC.

Graduation Practice

Seniors practice walking across the stage, junior marshals practice herding people, and various staff members have fun trying to pronounce names correctly. 10:00 am, May 31.

Award Ceremony and Slide Show

The winners of the Director's Cup and Principal's Cup are announced. Then the slide show, which is quite possibly one of the best parts of the year, complete with photos of your friends making strange faces and good music. Guaranteed to make at least four people sitting nearby you cry. May 31 - 2:00 pm for the awards and 3:00 pm for the slide show.

Airband

An extra-exciting lip-syncing/karaoke event hosted

by Ms. Moose and her mystery co-host. Enjoy NCSSM's wealth of performing talent. 7:00 pm, May 31. Email Joe Rick if you want to perform.

Yearbook Signing Dance

Dance with that special someone, get your yearbook signed by a hundred special someones, and read the Senior Wills and Quotations. Spend this last night with the people who matter the most, because you will miss them immeasurably. 9:00 pm - 1:00 am, May 31.

Last but not least

Keep your eyes out for the stupendous amount of good food in the last few days. Ben and Jerry's, Jersey Mike's, you name it! After the long months of PFM, the school wants us to eat well, so take advantage of every opportunity.

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